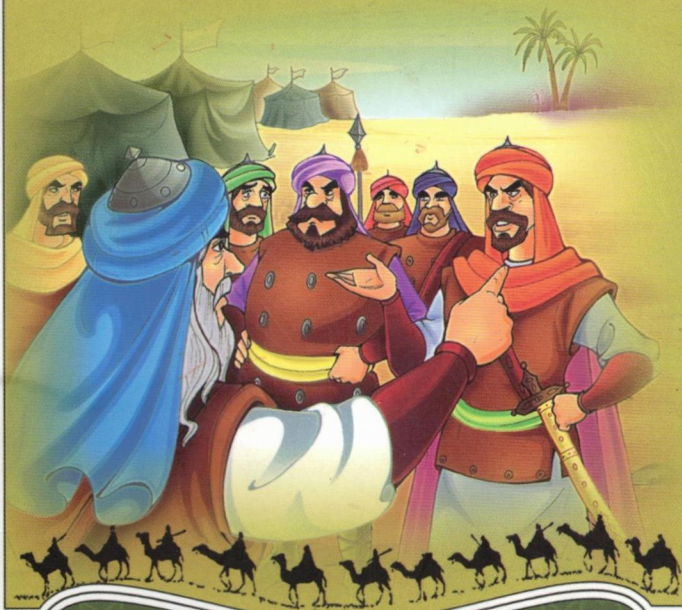


THE HEROES OF KARBALA

Anas bin Haris Kahili

1



Author: Mahdi Waheedi Sadr
Translated by: Ali A. Jaffry

• Illustrations: Tayyibah Tawassoli



In the name of the Most Merciful

The series, "The Heroes of Karbala" is a translation from Persian of the original work titled, "Ashabe Aashura". It has been adapted and tailored to meet the needs of its intended readers, i.e. kids 10 and above.

An effort has been made to introduce the companions of Imam Husain عليه السلام based on reliable historical sources. Some narrative details have been added by the author, pointed out by an asterisk.

We thank Almighty Allah for His help in accomplishing this task.

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Anas bin Haris Kahili

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Author: Mahdi Waheedi Sadr

Translated and Adapted by: Ali Aqib Jaffry

(aqib_jaffry@hotmail.com)

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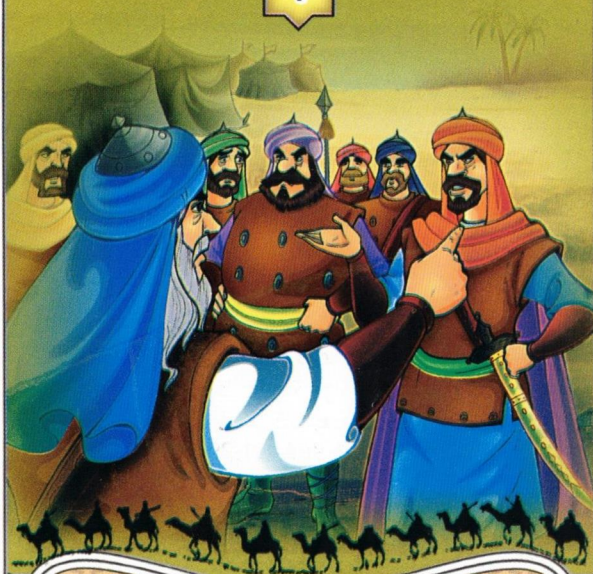
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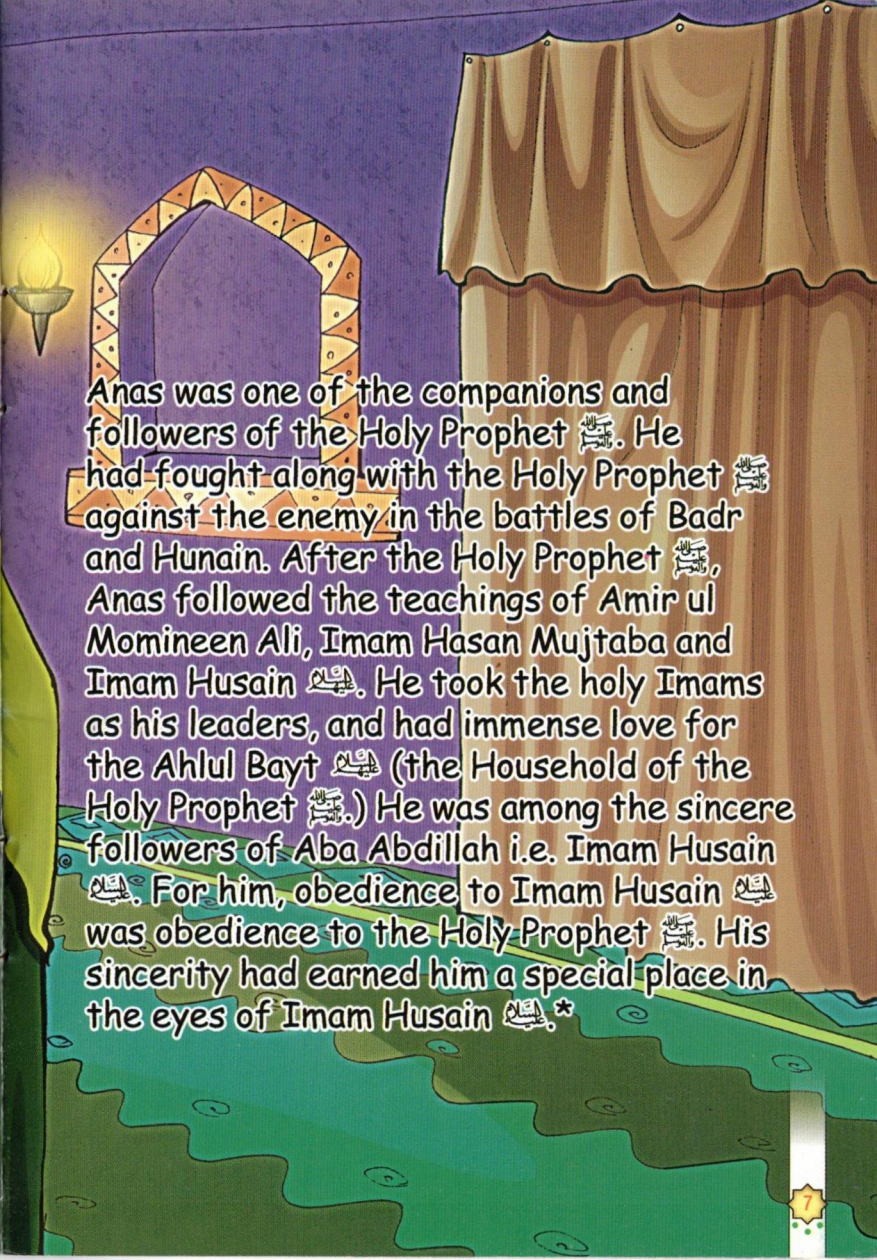
He was tall and well figured, had a muscular body, a bent back and a white beard. He was over a hundred years old. At times, his white eyebrows would fall over his eyes and hinder his vision. He had piercing looks, was authoritative, well known and well respected among the people of Kufah. He had a noble face and spoke only when needed. His name was Anas, son of Haris-Kahili.



The enemies of Islam feared him while his friends took pride in him. His wound marks spoke of his courage and bravery on previous battle fields. He was unequalled in generosity. He had an excellent memory, and could narrate the history of Islam by heart.*

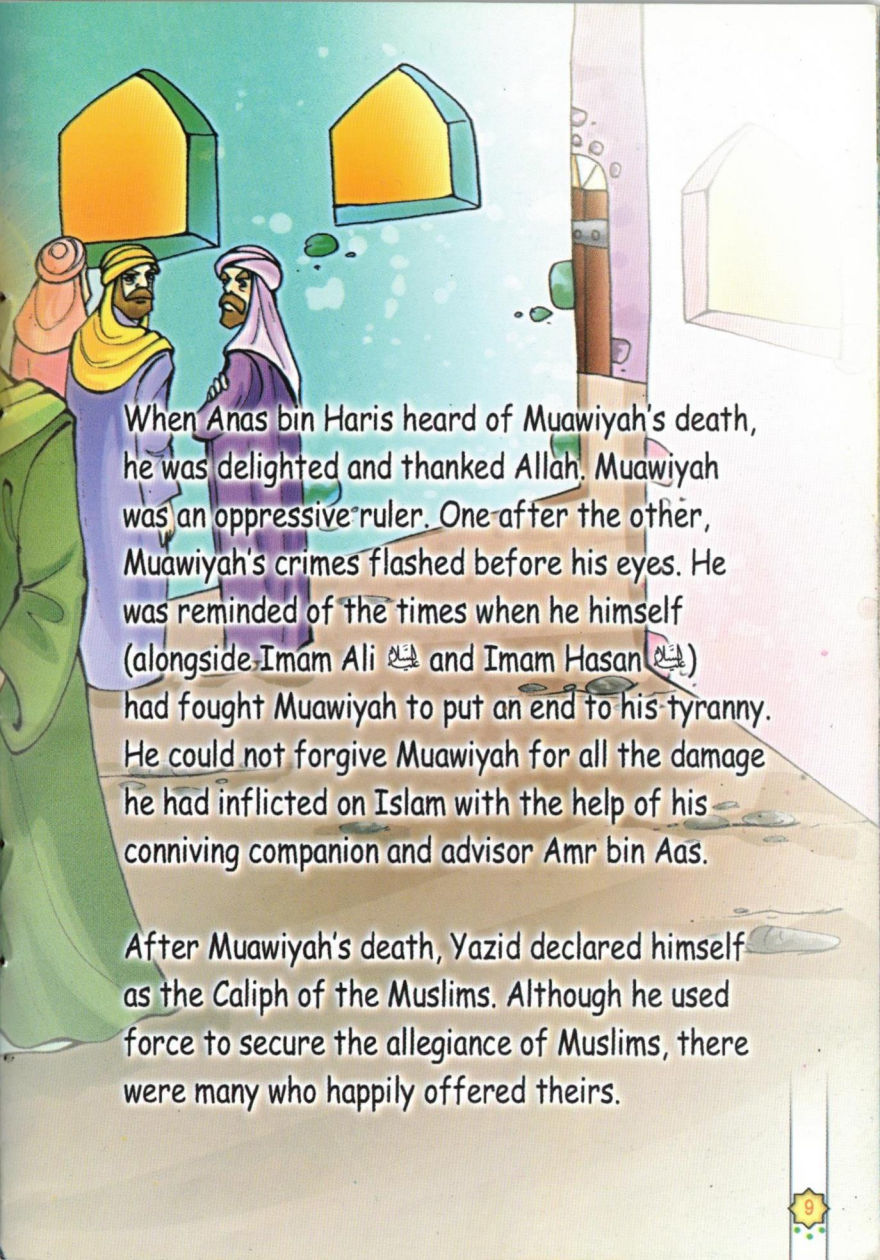








Anas was one of the companions and followers of the Holy Prophet ﷺ. He had fought along with the Holy Prophet ﷺ against the enemy in the battles of Badr and Hunain. After the Holy Prophet ﷺ, Anas followed the teachings of Amir ul Momineen Ali, Imam Hasan Mujtaba and Imam Husain (عليه السلام). He took the holy Imams as his leaders, and had immense love for the Ahlul Bayt (عليه السلام) (the Household of the Holy Prophet ﷺ.) He was among the sincere followers of Aba Abdillah i.e. Imam Husain (عليه السلام). For him, obedience to Imam Husain (عليه السلام) was obedience to the Holy Prophet ﷺ. His sincerity had earned him a special place in the eyes of Imam Husain (عليه السلام).*



An illustration of two men in traditional Islamic attire standing in a town. The man on the left wears a yellow headscarf and a purple robe, while the man on the right wears a purple headscarf and a purple robe. They are standing on a dirt path. In the background, there are several houses with yellow and orange roofs. A tall, thin tree trunk is visible on the right side of the path. The sky is light blue with some white clouds.

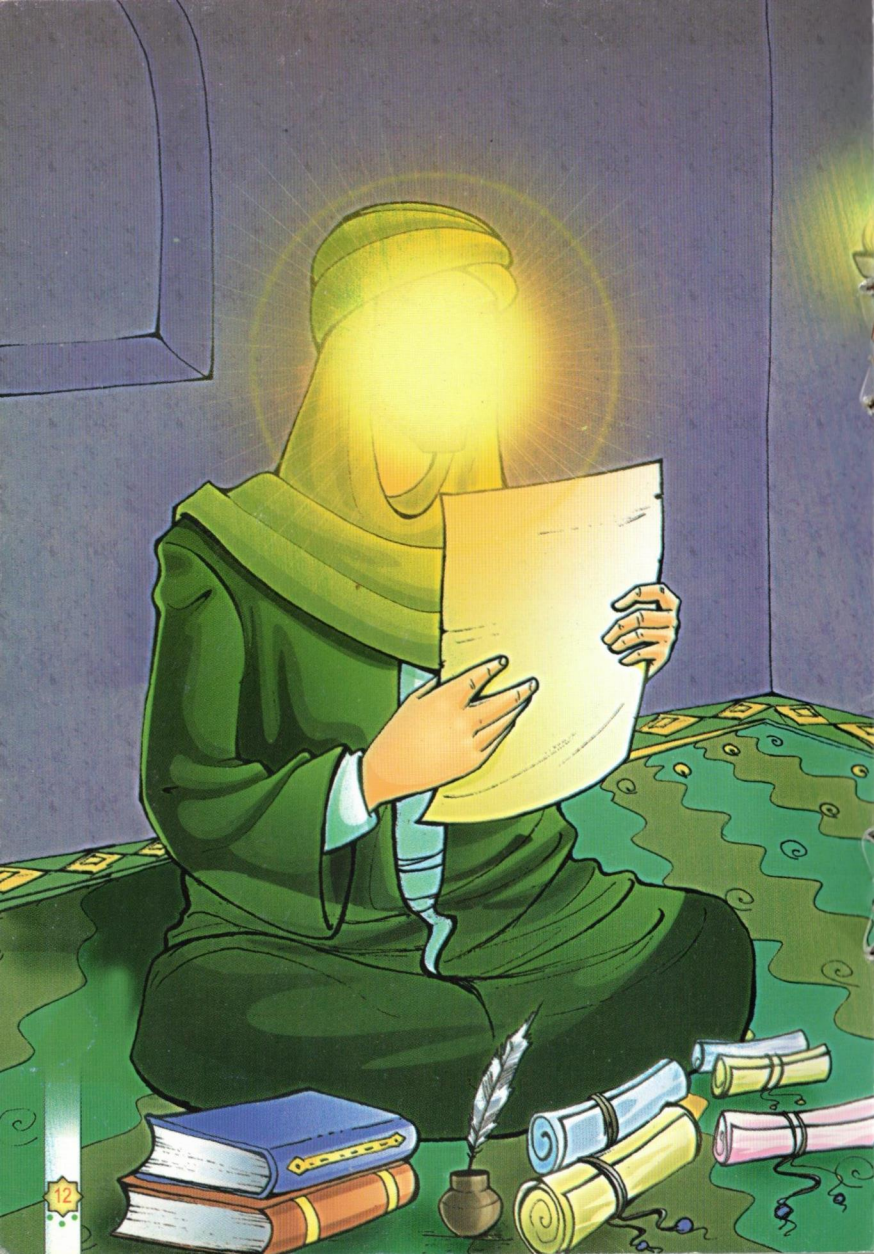
When Anas bin Haris heard of Muawiyah's death, he was delighted and thanked Allah. Muawiyah was an oppressive ruler. One after the other, Muawiyah's crimes flashed before his eyes. He was reminded of the times when he himself (alongside Imam Ali  and Imam Hasan ) had fought Muawiyah to put an end to his tyranny. He could not forgive Muawiyah for all the damage he had inflicted on Islam with the help of his conniving companion and advisor Amr bin Aas.

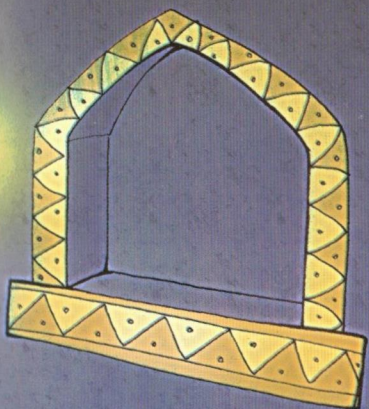
After Muawiyah's death, Yazid declared himself as the Caliph of the Muslims. Although he used force to secure the allegiance of Muslims, there were many who happily offered theirs.



These events did not surprise, but saddened and disappointed Anas. History had once again repeated itself. He remembered the day when Muawiyah introduced himself as the Caliph of the Muslims; the day when the Muslims turned their back on Imam Ali عليه السلام and offered their allegiance to Muawiyah; the day when the message of Ghadeer was once again ignored and the rights of Imam Ali عليه السلام trampled.



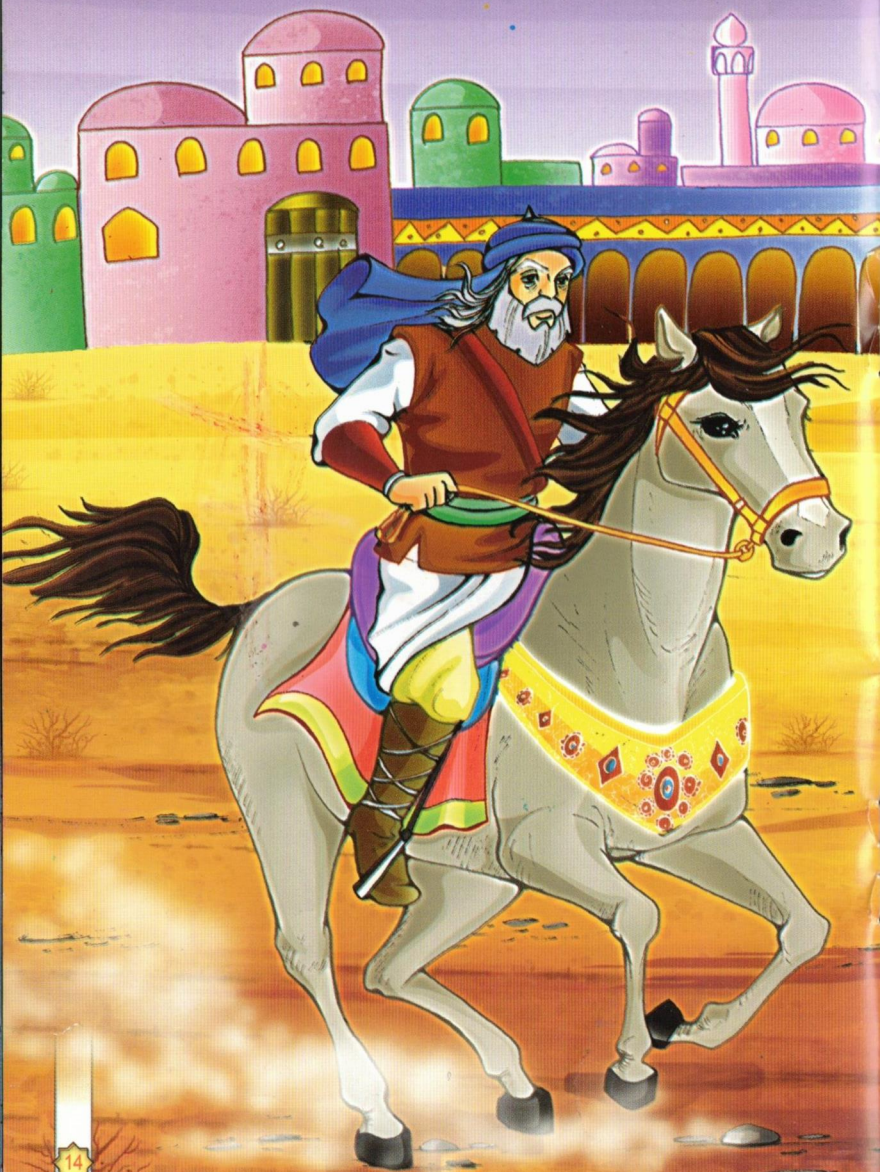


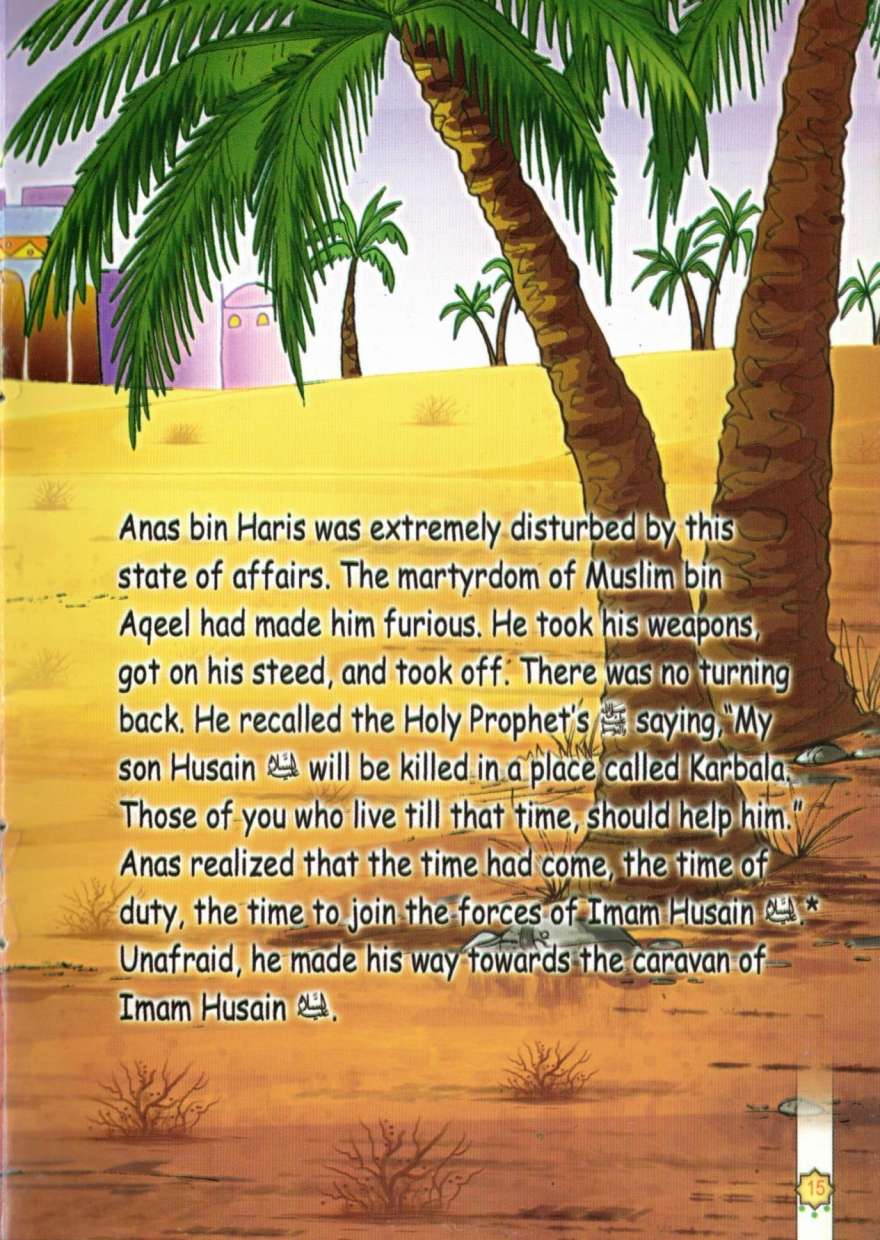


After the death of Muawiyah, the people of Kufah wrote hundreds of letters to Imam Husain (عليه السلام).

The letters read, "O Aba Abdillah (عليه السلام)! Now that Muawiyah has died, we want you to be our Imam and leader. We want to offer our allegiance to you."

The Imam sent Muslim bin Aqeel to Kufah to secure allegiance on his behalf. Initially thousands among the people of Kufah offered their allegiance. However, it did not take them long to back off. They abandoned Muslim bin Aqeel and he was mercilessly martyred.







Anas bin Haris was extremely disturbed by this state of affairs. The martyrdom of Muslim bin Aqeel had made him furious. He took his weapons, got on his steed, and took off. There was no turning back. He recalled the Holy Prophet's ﷺ saying, "My son Husain عليه السلام will be killed in a place called Karbala. Those of you who live till that time, should help him." Anas realized that the time had come, the time of duty, the time to join the forces of Imam Husain عليه السلام * Unafraid, he made his way towards the caravan of Imam Husain عليه السلام.

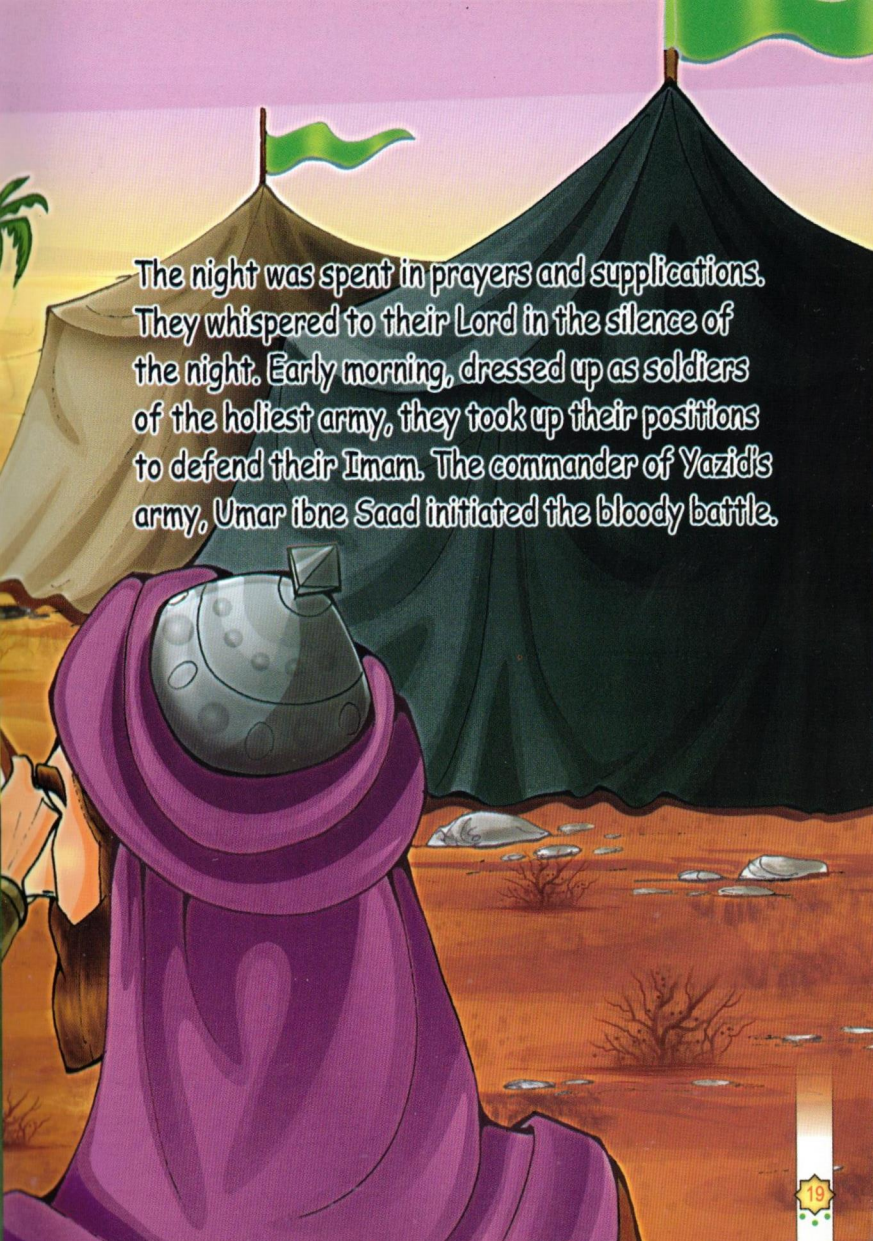
The companions of Imam Husain عليه السلام were delighted to see Anas bin Haris in their ranks. Anas felt at peace on being with his Imam.* When they reached the land called Karbala, Imam Husain عليه السلام instructed his companions to camp there and then.



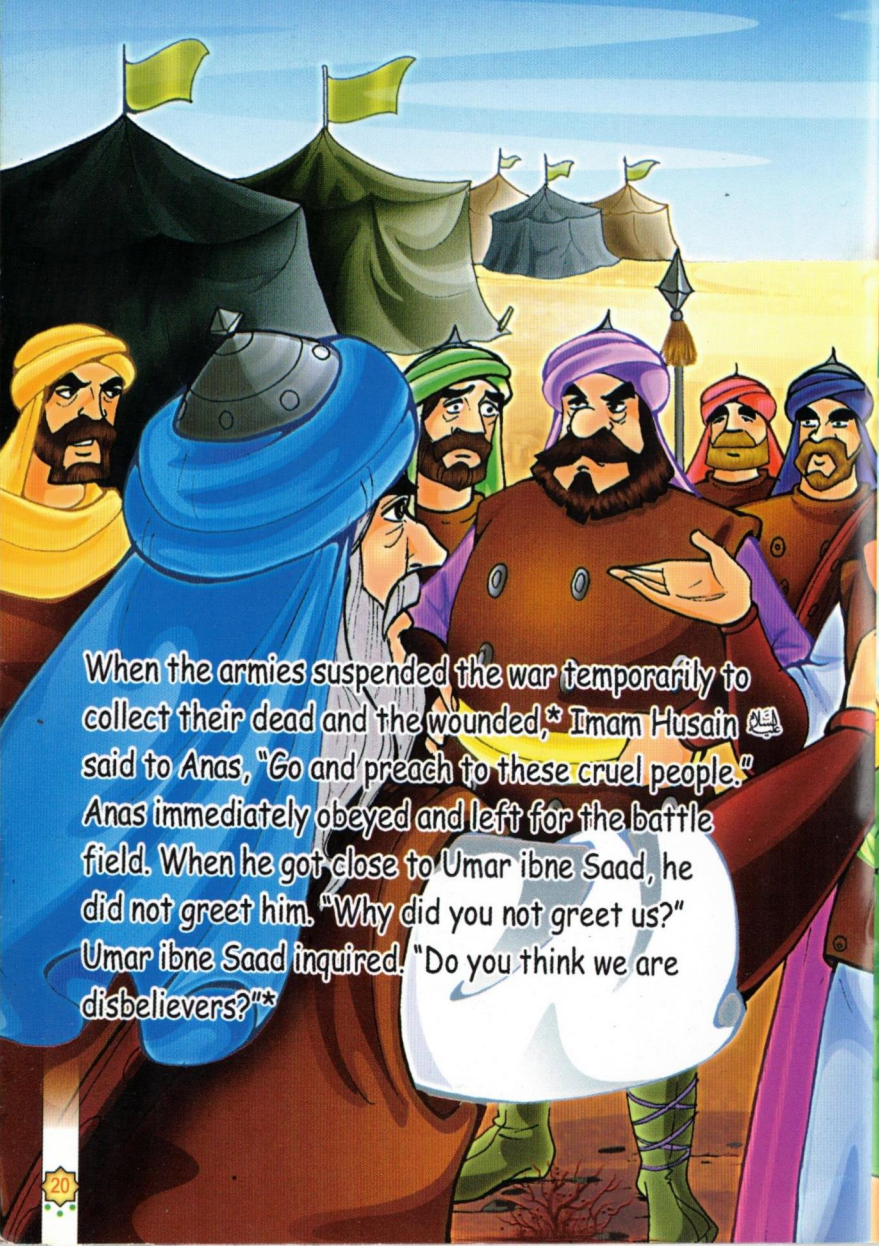
On the night of Aashura (the night before the tenth day of Muharram), they all gathered around Imam Husain  and expressed their joy at being able to give up their lives for the sake of their beloved Imam. Imam Husain  looked at their determined faces and said, "I do not know of companions more loyal than you." It was heartrending.








The night was spent in prayers and supplications. They whispered to their Lord in the silence of the night. Early morning, dressed up as soldiers of the holiest army, they took up their positions to defend their Imam. The commander of Yazid's army, Umar ibne Saad initiated the bloody battle.

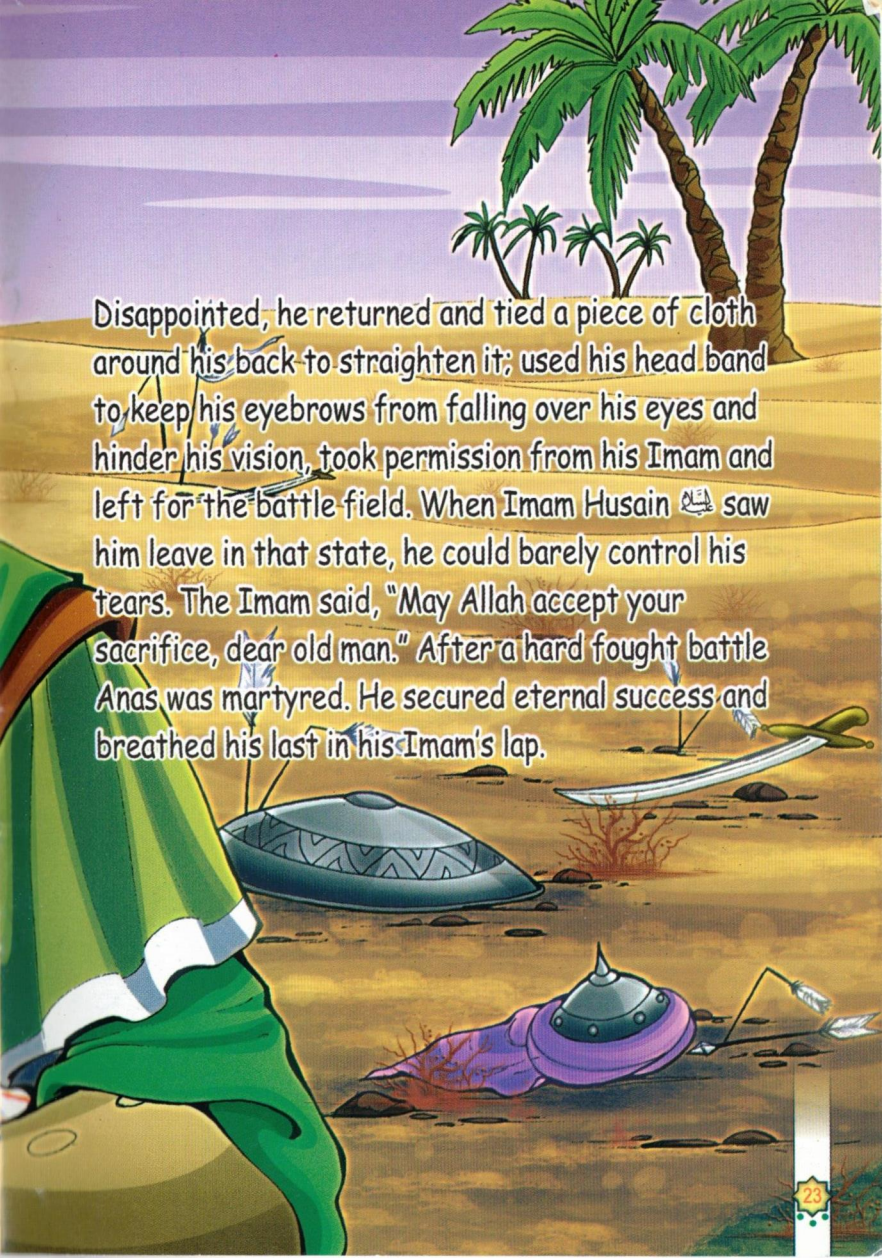


When the armies suspended the war temporarily to collect their dead and the wounded,* Imam Husain  said to Anas, "Go and preach to these cruel people." Anas immediately obeyed and left for the battle field. When he got close to Umar ibne Saad, he did not greet him. "Why did you not greet us?" Umar ibne Saad inquired. "Do you think we are disbelievers?"*

"How can you believe in God and His Holy Messenger while your swords are ready to shed the blood of the son of the Holy Prophet ﷺ!" Anas replied. Umar ibne Saad turned his head down for a while. He had no answer. He said, "I swear to God, I know that the killer of Imam Husain (عليه السلام) will end up in hell, but the orders of Ubaidullah ibne Ziyad have to be carried out." *







Disappointed, he returned and tied a piece of cloth around his back to straighten it; used his head band to keep his eyebrows from falling over his eyes and hinder his vision, took permission from his Imam and left for the battle field. When Imam Husain عليه السلام saw him leave in that state, he could barely control his tears. The Imam said, "May Allah accept your sacrifice, dear old man." After a hard fought battle Anas was martyred. He secured eternal success and breathed his last in his Imam's lap.

References

Ibsar ul Ain, page 99

Maseer ul Ahzaan, page 63

Rijal Toosi, pages 3, 71

Al Istiaab, vol. 1, page 112

Bihar ul Anwar, vol. 45, page 71

Hiyat ul Imam Husain عليه السلام, vol. 3, page 234

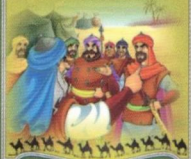


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